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Forum Airs Plot Theory In Killings

By John Hanrahan

Washington Post Staff Writer

A myriad of conspiracy theories, including one attempting to link the assassination of President John F. Kennedy to some of the figures involved in the Watergate affair, were raised yesterday on the concluding day of a two-day conference here on political assassinations of the last decade.

Various theorists at the conference at Georgetown University's Gaston Hall attributed President Kennedy's assassination to organized crime, the CIA, anti-Castro Cubans, big businessmen, the late President Lyndon B. Johnson, soldiers of fortune or combinations of these elements.

In most instances, the theories were old ones brought up to date. While some theorists exonerated Lee Harvey Oswald of the assassination of President Kennedy, others said Oswald may have been a minor figure in a large conspiracy.

What was different about the discussions from those of earlier years was the apparent widespread feeling that the Watergate affair and cover-up had links to President Kennedy's assassination in Dallas 10 years ago last Thursday.

Although the conference sponsor, the private, Washington-based Committee to Investigate Assassinations (CTIA), had not listed Watergate on its program, the issue was brought up yesterday afternoon by Chicago-based gadfly Sherman Skolnick, who was in the audience. A sizable portion of the audience of about 200 persons appeared to support Skolnick's successful effort to put Watergate on the agenda.

Skolnick, the chief proponent of the theory that there was deliberate sabotage in the plane crash that last December killed Dorothy Hunt, wife of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr., stirred up the conference by questioning what he alleged were possible links between the CIA and the CTIA.

He questioned why the conference was being held on "a CIA campus," a reference to CIA-sponsored research that has been carried out at Georgetown, and suggested that at least two prominent CTIA members have ridden CIA ties.

One of the panelists, Dr. Richard Popkin, professor of philosophy at Washington University at St. Louis, said that many other countries have had political assassination conspiracies, yet American officials here would have the nation believe that the assassinations of the last decade have been carried out by "a lone nut." Popkin said the Watergate affair, with its "conspiracy to re-elect the President," should convince Americans once and for all that conspiracies do exist and that President Kennedy was the victim of one.

Although none of the panelists dealt specifically in their prepared remarks with links between Watergate and President Kennedy's murder, various members of the audience contended that there may exist evidence to show that persons arrested in the break-in at Democratic Headquarters in the Watergate also were in Dallas on the day of Mr. Kennedy's assassination.

Ramparts magazine and many underground and smaller circulation publications have suggested in recent months that there may be direct links between the Dallas shooting and the Watergate affair but, as some members of the audience said yesterday, the major news media have ignored this possible connection.

Peter Dale Scott, author and professor at the University of California at Berkeley, said there were "lessons of Watergate" that should be applied to examining what he said was the "cover-up" of the facts about the Kennedy assassination.

The Watergate affair also showed, he said, that the persons involved in the cover-up need not necessarily have been involved in the original crime. He said he suspects this was the case in the investigation of Mr. Kennedy's murder.

In a morning panel discussion, authors of various books and articles on political assassinations expressed frustration over not being able to interest major news media in newly discovered evidence or theories relating to the political murders and attempted murders.

Although some panelists said they felt there was a new willingness by the news media to do more investigative reporting as a result of the Watergate affair, others said there was still a strong reluctance in the media to re-open investigations of assassinations.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

In observance of the tenth anniversary of President Kennedy's death, the Committee to Investigate Assassinations is sponsoring a two-day Conference at Georgetown University on November 23rd and 24th. A brochure describing the Conference and its program is attached. As you will note, several of the Nation's prominent writers and investigators of the assassinations of the past decade will speak.

While a number of different points of view on the subject will be represented, there is general consensus that the Executive Branch has failed to make known all the relevant facts of the assassinations. We believe that the Congress must ultimately take the initiative if the public is to learn all of the facts, and that Watergate has shown us that Congress' action depends largely on disclosures by an informed press and other news media.

A press pass will be available for you at the Conference registration desk. For further information, please contact:

Ms. Andrea Wyatt
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(202) 232-1152

COME SHARE THE FINDINGS
OF THE NATION'S EXPERTS

AT A TWO DAY CONFERENCE

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS

TO BE HELD AT

**GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY**

GASTON HALL

Nov. 23-24, 1973

**DECADE OF
ASSASSINATIONS**

1963 - 1973

THE LAST THREE PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN DECIDED BY
BULLETS:

1964 — result decided by the assassination of
President John F. Kennedy

1968 — result decided by the assassination of
Senator Robert F. Kennedy

1972 — result decided by the near-assassination of
Governor George Wallace

WHAT is the evidence?

WHO fire the fatal shots?

WHY has there been such a concerted effort
to withhold the facts?

WHO was really behind the assassinations?

JOHN F. KENNEDY • SYLVANUS OLYMPIO
ABDUL KARIM KASSEM • MEDGAR EVERS
"NGO" DINH DIEM • JIGME DORJI • ADIB AL
SHISHAKLI • PIERRE NGENDANDUMWE
HASSAN ALI MANSOUR • MALCOLM X • VIOL
LIUZZO • MARIO MENDEZ MONTENEGRO • SI
ABUBAKAR BALEWA • J.T.V. IRONSI AGUIYI
HENDRIK VERWOERD • TRAN VAN VAN
GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL • CHE GUEVAR
• MARTIN LUTHER KING • ROBERT
KENNEDY • EDUARDO MONDLANE • TO
MBOYA • A.A. SHERMARKE • GEORGE
WALLACE • SALVADORE ALLENDE •

1963 - 1973

PROGRAM

FRIDAY - NOVEMBER 23

- 9:00 LATE REGISTRATION -
Early Registrants pick up passes.
- 9:30 WELCOME:
Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Executive Director, Committee to Investigate Assassinations
Mr. Norman Mailer, Author and Forwarder of *The Fifth Estate*
- 10:00 CURRENT STATUS OF PROMINENT ASSASSINATION CASES:
JFK CASE - Mr. Robert P. Smith, Director of Research, Committee to Investigate Assassinations
RFK CASE - Mr. Robert Hanson, Attorney, present counsel for Sirhan Sirhan
KING CASE - Mr. James Lesar, Attorney, present counsel for James Earl Ray
WALLACE CASE - Mr. Ronald Van Doren, Newsman, Author, researcher into the background of Arthur Bremer
ROCKWELL CASE - Ms. Meredith Rode, Professor at Federal City College, Authority in killing of George Lincoln Rockwell
- 11:30 UNIQUE INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES:
Mr. William Turner, Moderator - Former FBI Agent, Author of numerous books on investigative techniques
Mr. George O'Toole - Former CIA Agent, Free-Lance Writer, expert on the PSE (Psychological Stress Evaluator)
Mr. Robert Saltzman - Computer Engineer, lecturer on the Warren Commission Report

FRIDAY - Continued

- 12:30 BREAK FOR LUNCH
- 2:00 MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:
Mr. Josiah Thompson, Moderator - Professor at Haverford College, author of *Six Seconds in Dallas*
Dr. Cyril Wecht - Professor of Law and Forensic Medicine at Duquesne University; Coroner of Pittsburgh, Pa.
Ms. Sylvia Meagher - Attorney, UN Official, author of *Accessories After The Fact*
Mr. Roger Hanson - Attorney, counsel to Sirhan Sirhan
Mr. Herbert MacDonnell - Professor of Criminalistics, Corning University; expert in case of Fred Hampton
Mr. Mark Lane - Attorney, author of *Rush To Judgment and Executive Action*
- 6:00 BREAK FOR DINNER
- 8:30 WARREN COMMISSION REPORT: FACT OR FICTION -
A slide show and lecture by Mr. Robert Saltzman

SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 24

- 9:30 ASSASSINATIONS AND THE MEDIA:
Mr. John Henry Faulk, Moderator - Humorist and Author of *Fear On Trial*
Mr. Robert Kaiser - Author of *RFK Must Die*
Mr. Donald Freed - Co-Author of *Executive Action*
Mr. Harold Weisberg - Author of *Frame Up*
Mr. Ted Charach - Author of *Second Gun*
Mr. Peter Noyes - Author of *Legacy Of Doubt*
Mr. Fred Cook - Author of numerous books and articles
- 12:30 BREAK FOR LUNCH
- 2:00 THEORIES OF CONSPIRACY:
Mr. Richard Sprague, Moderator - Computer expert and author
Dr. Richard Popkin, Professor at Washington University; author of *The Second Oswald*
Col. Fletcher Prouty - Former Liaison Officer between Pentagon and CIA author of *The Secret Teams*
Mr. Robert K. Brown - Former Special Services Officer; expert in attempts on life of Castro
Mr. Earl Golz - Reporter for Dallas Morning News; expert on Organized Crimes
Mr. Victor Marchetti - Former CIA Agent, author
Mr. Peter Dale Scott - Professor at Berkeley; Author of *The War Conspiracy*
- 5:00 INDIVIDUAL WORKSHOPS WITH THE SPEAKERS -
Question and Answer Sessions